

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 21-22 are presented for prosecution. Claims 1, 5, 8, 17, 18 and 21 are currently amended. Claims 4, 12, 19-20, and 2-27 were previously cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18, 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiyama et al (US Patent No. 5,594,653).

In agreement with a telephone interview with Examiner Nguyen, claims 1, 8, and 21 are amended to restore claim limitations previously removed in previously submitted Office Action Response of November 17, 2006. In accordance with Examiner Nguyen, Applicants believe that claims 1, 8, and 21 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 is amended to change its dependency from canceled claim 4 to independent claim 1.

Claims 17 and 18 are amended to correct a grammatical oversight. A comma is inserted after a listing of the claim from which they respectively depend.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-18, and 22, which depend from claims 1, 8, or 21 are likewise believed to be in condition for allowance based on the allowability of their respective base claim.

This Response After Final Rejection is believed to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper Under 37 CFR §1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Response After Final Rejection, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he/she is respectfully requested to contact applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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